

## **PSC TO HOLD FIVE LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS IN NATURAL GAS RATE CASE**

Jefferson City (April 17, 2001)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold local public hearings in **Blue Springs, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Joplin and Monett** to receive customer comment on a natural gas rate case filed by Missouri Gas Energy (MGE). The Blue Springs, Kansas City and St. Joseph hearings will be on May 2, 2001. On May 3, 2001, the Commission will hold local public hearings in Joplin and Monett. The schedule appears below:

Wednesday, May 2	Wednesday, May 2	Wednesday, May 2
<b>Blue Springs</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>St. Joseph</b>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
Jackson Co. Parks & Recreation	Jackson Co. Courthouse	City Hall
Fleming Hall	KC Legislative Assembly Area	Council Chambers
21906 Woods Chapel Road	415 E. 12th Street	11th & Frederick
Thursday, May 3	Thursday, May 3	
<b>Monett</b>	<b>Joplin</b>	
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	
City of Monett	Missouri Southern State College	
Casino Building, South Park	Matthews Hall Auditorium	
Hwy 37 & 60	3950 E. Newman Road	

**One hour before the scheduled local public hearing, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission will be available in order to provide neutral information about the issues to be considered by the Commission in this rate request.**

On November 7, 2000, MGE filed a natural gas rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission. MGE seeks to increase natural gas revenues by approximately \$39.3 million a year.

(More)

For a residential customer, MGE says the increase would be approximately \$5 a month. MGE states the rate increase is necessary to recover, through rates, gas safety program investment and related expenses, costs of other new facilities and operating expense increases since their last general rate case.

**This rate case reflects non-gas costs which are operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as gas mains and service lines carrying the natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or the rates a wholesale supplier charges MGE for natural gas.**

Formal hearings before the Commission are scheduled to begin on **June 11, 2001**, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building in Jefferson City. These hearings will continue through **June 15, 2001**, if necessary.

MGE serves approximately 476,000 natural gas customers in western Missouri.

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